

SENATOR SIMON: But are they ever paid more than their counterparts in private industry?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Well, as I said this morning, the Fair Labor Standard Act no longer applies to state government but the Federal Labor Standard Act provides that overtime pay is computed on the same basis as hours worked.

SENATOR SIMON: Senator, I am not talking about overtime pay. I was just saying in terms of a salary that the person who works in the Accounting Department of the State of Nebraska, if he were in private industry, would his salary be comparable to what he is getting now or would it be higher.

SENATOR LABEDZ: I think so. When I worked for, I think it would be higher because when I worked for the State Department, I came to the State Department because I had better pay and that was seven years ago and I left private industry to come to the State Department.

SENATOR SIMON: So you are telling me that state employees receive generally equal pay to private industry?

SENATOR LABEDZ: And in some cases, more.

SENATOR SIMON: And in some cases, higher?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Yes, we heard a bill in committee just yesterday where the auditors were paid more with the State Department than they were in private industry.

SENATOR SIMON: What was that figure, do you remember the difference?

SENATOR LABEDZ: No, they didn't give me the difference.

SENATOR SIMON: Thank you. I was not aware that this was the case and the information I have studied I find that generally speaking government employees receive a considerably less amount of money than they do working for the state or working for the city or working for the federal government, and it seems to me that they are sacrificing enough and then to subject them to this type of discrimination, when their counterparts in private industry don't have to do that, I cannot support this amendment in any way.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: The Chair recognizes Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body, Senator Labedz' amendment basically will allow, as Senator Keyes pointed up, that public employees coming back to work from a vacation, say they got back on Tuesday, and then there was a big snowstorm and they had to work, say at the end of the week, they had to work Saturday and Sunday, they would not get paid for those hours, those overtime hours. They would get straight time pay because in fact they hadn't worked a full 40 hours even though they were being paid the first two days of the week for vacation time, time that they had earned over the years and our meager vacation schedule is not that lucrative in the first place. The time that they had worked and earned over the year, they would not be getting paid for